

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8226

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TU, CY

SUBJECT: TURKEY COMMEMORATES ANNIVERSARY OF CYPRUS INTERVENTION

1. TURKS THIS WEEK HAVE BEEN COMMEMORATING THE THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF THE TURKISH INTERVENTION IN CYPRUS. COMMEMORATION THIS YEAR HAS BEEN MORE EXTENSIVE THAN PREVIOUSLY BECAUSE ECEVIT IS ONCE AGAIN IN POWER AND IS INTENT ON REMINDING THE TURKISH PUBLIC THAT HE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE "HEROIC" TURKISH ACTION.

2. MINISTER OF STATE TURAN GUNES, WHO WAS FOREIGN MINISTER AT THE TIME OF THE INTERVENTION, LED A DELEGATION OF EXPERTS TO CYPRUS JULY 17 TO CONSULT WITH TURKISH CYPRIOTS ON SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AND TO REPRESENT GOT AT TURKISH CYPRIOT CELEBRATIONS OF THE INTERVENTION. BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE FROM ANKARA, GUNES ISSUED A STATEMENT PRAISING THE INTERVENTION

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AS AN OPERATION OF "FREEDOM, PEACE, AND HUMANITY". HE ACCUSED THE GREEK CYPRIOTS OF INTENSIFYING THEIR PROPAGANDA ACTIVITIES AGAINST THE TURKISH COMMUNITY AND SAID THE ECEVIT GOVERNMENT WAS MAKING A SPECIAL EFFORT TO COUNTER THAT PROPAGANDA. ASKED ABOUT A SOLUTION TO THE CYPRUS PROBLEM, GUNES TOLD REPORTERS THAT IT WOULD BE SOLVED BY THE PEOPLE OF CYPRUS. "THERE IS NO HURRY." HE SAID, "HOWEVER, THE PROBLEM SHOULD NOT BE PUT OFF

INDEFINITELY."

3. JULY 19 PRIMIN ECEVIT SENT PUBLIC MESSAGE OF CNGRATULATIONS TO TURKISH GENERAL STAFF CHIEF SANCAR. IN ADDITION TO PRAISING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE TURKISH MILITARY DURING THE INTERVENTION, ECEVIT'S STATEMENT SAID BY CONTRAST TO THAT OF GUNES-- THAT AN EARLY SOLUTION TO THE CYPRUS PROBLEM IS NECESSARY AND WOULD BENEFIT BOTH CYPRIOT COMMUNITIES, HELP STRAIGHTEN OUT TURKISH-GREEK RELATIONS, AND IMPROVE REGIONAL SECURITY. ECEVIT SAID THAT IT WAS NECESSARY FOR TURKEY TO ADOPT SUCH A CONSTRUCTIVE ATTITUDE, BUT THAT TURKEY COULD NOT SOLVE THE PROBLEM ALONE. HE SAID THAT A SOLUTION WAS BEING DELAYED BECAUSE "SOME QUARTERS" WISHED TO RETURN TO THE STATUS QUO ANTE. ECEVIT SAID THE "NEW CYPRUS REALITY" HAD TO BE THE STARTING POINT FOR A LASTING SOLUTION.

4. OTHER COMMEMORATIONS INCLUDE A STATEMENT BY TURKISH GENERAL STAFF CHIEF SANCAR, A VISIT TO NORTHERN CYPRUS BY A DELEGATION OF NINE PARLIAMENTARIANS, AND A "PEACE AND FREEDOM FESTIVAL" IN ANAMUR, THE TOWN FROM WHICH SOME INVADING FORCES DEPARTED TURKEY.

5. HURRIYET JULY 20 HEADLINED AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH TURKISH CYPRIOT LEADER DENKTASH IN WHICH HE SAID THAT A CYPRUS SOLUTION AWAITS THE FORMATION OF A STRONG TURKISH GOVERNMENT. ASKED ABOUT REPORTS THAT CLARK CLIFFORD INTENDED TO RETURN TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CYPRUS IN SEPTEMBER OR OCTOBER, DENKTASH SAID SUCH A VISIT WOULD BE HARMFUL AND WOULD DELAY SOLUTION OF THE CYPRUS PROBLEM. CONCERNING POSSIBLE FUTURE CONCESSIONS, DENKTASH SAID THAT HE COULD NOT IMAGINE A TURKISH GOVERNMENT WHICH WOULD GIVE UP VAROSHA OR MORPHOU. HE SAID THE NATION WOULD NOT ACCEPT SUCH CONCESSIONS AND THEY WOULD NOT LEAD TO PEACE BECAUSE "ONCE THEY GET THEM, THE GREEKS WILL DEMAND THE REST."

6. COMMENT: DESPITE THE EFFORTS OF THE CARETAKER ECEVIT GOVERNMENT, COMMEMORATION OF THE THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF THE TURKISH INTERVENTION HAS NOT BEEN A MAJOR PUBLIC EVENT. THE GOVERNMENT FORMATION PROCESS HAS DOMINATED PRESS COVERAGE AND POPULAR ATTENTION, AND ECEVIT'S EFFORTS TO RECREATE THE SENSE OF NATIONAL PRIDE AND EXHILARATION WHICH TURKS FELT THREE YEARS AGO SEEM TO HAVE HAD LITTLE EFFECT.
SPIERS

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